

## Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 SCA-01

/022 W

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R 212012Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6316

UNCLAS MEXICO 1571

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, MX (CLARK, ELIJAH H.)

SUBJECT: DEATH OF CLARK IN TUXPAN, VERACRUZ

REF: TELCON DEPT SCS OFFICER/GONZALEZ 2/15/75

STATE 35733

STATE 37188

TELCON DEPT SCS BURMAN/SMITH 2/20/75

1. CONGRESSMAN CARL D PERKINS INTERESTED.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED POLICE REPORT OF CIRCUMSTANCES OF SUBJECT'S DEATH. IN SUMMARY REPORT INDICATES THAT SUBJECT AND TRAVELING COMPANION, CHARLES BLACK, ENTERED MEXICO THROUGH MATAMOROS, TAMAULIPAS IN FORD PINTO OWNED BY BLACK ON MORNING OF FEB. 10. ABOUT 8 P.M. THAT NIGHT CLARK WAS DRIVING ON TUXPAN/TAMPICO FEDERAL HIGHWAY SHORT DISTANCE FROM TUXPAN WHEN BLACK, WHO WAS ASLEEP ON BACK SEAT, WAS AWAKENED BY SUDDEN HALT OF CAR AND SOUND OF GUNFIRE. HE SAW LIGHTS BEING FLASHED IN WINDOWS AND HEARD SHATTERING OF WINDOWS BY FURTHER GUNFIRE. HE SAW THAT CLARK WAS BADLY WOUNDED IN HEAD AND POSSIBLY DEAD AND REALIZING THAT HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED FELL DOWN ON THE SEAT FEIGNING DEATH. HE HEARD LAUGHTER AS TWO OR MORE PERSONS APPROACHED THE CAR, SHATTERED THE WINDOWS AND ENTERED THE CAR, RIFLING THROUGH THEIR POCKETS AND POSSESSIONS IN THE CAR AND TAKING THE MONEY THAT WAS FOUND. THEY NEVER SPOKE BUT LAUGHED AS THEY RETURNED TO THEIR CAR AND DROVE AWAY. AUTHORITIES WERE NOTIFIED OF INCIDENT AT 3 A.M. AND PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SCENE. CLARK'S BODY WAS FOUND INSIDE THE CAR AND HAD THREE

GUNSHOT WOUNDS. OFFICIALS LATER OBTAINED PRECEDING ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT THROUGH DECLARATION OF BLACK WITH PHYSICIAN INTERPRETING.

3. POLICE REPORT, COMPLETED SEVERAL DAYS AFTER INCIDENT, MADE NO REFERENCE TO IDENTITY OR APPREHENSION OF ASSAILANTS. HOWEVER, LATER NEWSPAPER REPORT INDICATED THAT A BAND OF SEVEN PERSONS HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN AREA AND HAD CONFESSED THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN MORE THAN TWENTY ASSAULTS AND DEATHS IN VERACRUZ AREA, INCLUDING DEATH OF U.S. CITIZEN, JERRY ORMAN, IN JANUARY.. NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION YET BUT OFFICER'S OPINION IS SAME GROUP CONNECTED WITH CLARK MURDER. EMBASSY WILL CONTACT OFFICIALS IN VERACRUZ TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFO REGARDING SPECIFIC CASES OF ASSAULT AND MURDER ATTRIBUTED TO GROUP.

4. CHARLES BLACK RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL AND DEPARTED MEXICO CITY FEB. 20 WITH PERSONAL EFFECTS OF DECEASED. HE WILL REQUIRE IMMEDIATE HOSPITALIZATION IN U.S. BUT PLANS TO CONTACT FAMILY OF DECEASED UPON ARRIVAL TO GIVE VERBAL ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO RETURN CLARK'S PERSONAL EFFECTS.

5. FS-192, COPIES OF POLICE REPORT AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES BEING MAILED TO FAMILY AND SENT BY POUCH TO SCS FEB. 21. EMBASSY WILL INFORM DEPT OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.  
JOVA

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## Message Attributes

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